

Amdt. Dated Feb. 10, 2006

Reply to Office Action of Sept. 6, 2005

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to all Figures 1- 6. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1-6, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1-6.

In Figure 1, the text "Completed Swab" was removed and the numbers **10** and **11** were added with arrows from each pointing to certain parts of the present invention.

In Figure 2, the text "Crossection of swab showing stick overlaying cotton applicator (providing relative position of cotton to stick)" was removed and the numbers **10**, **11**, **12a** and **12b** were added with arrows from each pointing to certain parts of the present invention.

In Figure 3, the text "Stick end view with cutout (showing rounded edges)" was removed and the number **12** was added with an arrow pointing to a certain part of the present invention.

In Figure 4, the text "Stick flat view showing cutouts" was removed and the numbers **12a** and **12b** were added with arrows from each pointing to certain parts of the present invention.

In Figure 5, the text "Illustration of cutting method along length of plastic strip (flat view)" was removed and the numbers **12a**, **12b** and **13** were added with arrows from each pointing to certain parts of the present invention.

In Figure 6, the text "blade shape" was removed and the number **13** was added with an arrow pointing to a certain part of the present invention.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Per Office Action Summary mailed to me on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the following changes are made: in paragraph 11, line 1 the number 4 was added and struck through (although the strike lines up with the crossbar on the 4, so it doesn't appear stricken) and the number 5 is underlined; I elect to choose Claim 1 without traverse and withdraw Claim 2; format changes to the drawings to improve legibility have been made per the attached PTO-948.

In the specification, several sections were added per the examiners request. These sections were originally left out as the electronic filing applications that were used at the time, ePave 5.1 and PASAT, did not require them, and the application passed the validation process when preparing it for electronic submission. While most sections were not applicable to the current invention, the Background of the Invention and the Short Summary sections added significantly to the application.

In the specification, the paragraphs [Para 1] - [Para 8] and [Para 11] - [Para 18] have been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

Claims 1-2 were amended after reviewing previous art as provided by the examiner, specifically U.S. Pat. No. 3,324,849 (Harvey Kravitz) and U.S. Pat. No. 6,079,423 (Suzuki, Akio). The intent of the amendments is to provide clarification of the differences between the present invention and the claims made in the previous art.

While preparing the amendments to the original application, the electronic filing programs provided by the USPTO were used, namely ePave 5.2 and ABX 1.2.1. Some differences in appearance from a manual approach to formatting the application for submission may be due to the standards enforced by the USPTO programs, which appear to be different in some respects from what is represented in existing published patent applications. For example, the way paragraphs and claims are numbered within the documents for example is different. Where these differences were apparent, the standards enforced by the USPTO programs were used.

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Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

By \_\_\_\_\_

  
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